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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/532,229	10/24/2005	Ali Chaouche	052488	9062

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EXAMINER

TRAN, DIEM T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3748

DATE MAILED: 06/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/532,229	CHAOUCHE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Diem Tran	3748	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5,7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 3 and 4 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

Art Unit: 3748

DETAILED ACTION

An Applicant's Preliminary Amendment filed on 4/20/05 has been entered. In this preliminary amendment, claims 1-5, 7 have been amended and claim 6 has been canceled. Overall, claims 1-5, 7 are pending in this application.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

-The following headings of the specification are missing, such as:

- *Background of the Invention.*

- *Brief Summary of the Invention.*

- *Brief description of the drawing(s)* as required by 37 FR 1.74. Appropriate corrections are required

Claim Objections

Claims 1-5, 7 are objected to because of the following informalities:

-In claim 1, lines 4, 5, --at least one of-- should be inserted after “controlling” and “and/or” should be changed to --and--.

-In claim 3, lines 1, 2, --at least one of -- should be inserted after “to control” and “and/or” should be changed to --and--.

-In claim 7, lines 2,3, --at least one of -- should be inserted after “to control” and “and/or” should be changed to --and--.

Appropriate corrections are required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Digeser et al. (US Patent 6,082,325) in view of Tonetti et al. (US Patent 6,666,020).

Regarding claim 1, Digeser discloses a system for assisting regeneration of a storage/release NOx trap integrated in an exhaust line of a motor vehicle diesel engine, the system comprising:

gas admission means for admitting gas into the engine, means for injecting fuel into the cylinders thereof in the form of at least pilot and main injections, and means for controlling said gas admission for periodically switching the engine between a lean mixture standard operating mode in which NOx is stored in the trap and a rich mixture regeneration operating mode, in which NOx is released from the trap and the trap is regenerated (see col. 1, lines 41-60, col. 7, lines 4-11), wherein in a rich-mixture regeneration operating modes the injection means are suitable for implementing at least one pilot injections triggered in a crankshaft angle range from approximately 50° to approximately 5° ahead of the top dead centre point of the cylinder concerned and the main injection is triggered in an undercalibrated range up to a crankshaft angle of approximately 35° after the top dead centre point (see Figure 3, col. 7, lines 39-59);

however, fails to disclose that one more pilot injection is injected before main injection. Tonetti teaches that at least two pilot injections are injected into the engine in order to condition a combustion chamber for complete combustion of a main fuel injection (see Figure 2).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to have utilized the teaching of Tonetti in the Digeser system, since the use thereof would have maintained drivability of a vehicle during regeneration of a NOx trap.

Regarding claim 2, Digeser further discloses that the control means are adapted to control the gas admission means to reduce the quantity of gas admitted into the engine when said engine is in its regeneration mode of operation (see col. 8, lines 42-52).

Regarding claim 5, Digeser further discloses the engine being associated with means for recirculating exhaust gas to its inlet side, regulating the operation of the recirculation means when the engine is using a rich mixture and reducing the quantity of gas admitted into the engine when the engine is operating in the regeneration mode (see col. 9, lines 14-22).

Regarding claim 7, the modified Digeser system discloses all the claimed limitations as discussed in claim 1 above, however, fails to specifically disclose operating the engine with a lean mixture for approximately 60 seconds and with a rich mixture for approximately 2 seconds.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a specific optimum lean time and rich time for operating the engine, since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3, 4 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.


Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Diem Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-4866. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday -Friday from 8:30 a.m.- 5:00p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas E. Denion, can be reached on (571) 272-4859. The fax number for this group is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 800-786-9199 (toll-free).

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Diem Tran
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Art unit 3748


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